(d) whether Government should plan strategies not based on ideology but on achieving planned results; and

(e) if so, what efforts Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) As per the information contained in the World Development Indicators database of the World Bank, the Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for 2004 places India in the fourth position after United States, China and Japan with values (in billions of international dollars) at 11628 for United States, 7124 for China, 3774 for Japan and 3363 for India. While Purchasing power parity (PPP) conversion factors take into account differences in the relative prices of goods and services—particularly non-tradables—to provide an overall measure of the real value of output produced by an economy compared to other economies, this is generally not used to measure growth.

(c) to (e) Since 1991, India has taken several reform measures in policies related to trade, industry, fiscal and public sector to improve productive efficiencies and dynamism of Indian industries and to impart dynamism to the overall growth process. Policies towards removing existing constraints in infrastructure, establishing international best practices in the financial sector and achieving good corporate governance is a continuous process.

Reduction of excise duties on cars and two wheelers

633. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made an assessment of the reaction from the automobile industry in the country;

(b) whether Government have decided to reduce excise duties to be levied on cars and two wheelers and;

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Economic cooperation with US

†634. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of discussions held between India and US during his five days visit to America on further strengthening economic co-operation with a view to maintain the growth rate at more than seven percent;

(b) whether positive results have accrued as a result of this discussion;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, by when such results would be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Finance Minister visited United States of America from September 20-25, 2005 to attend Annual Meetings of IMF-World Bank. During this visit, he also participated in India Investment Forum, met CEOs of major US companies at New York; and delivered a lecture in Yale University.

In Washington DC, on the sidelines of the Annual Meetings of IMF-World Bank, Finance Minister met US Treasury Secretary Mr. John Snow and Dr. Ben Bernanke, then Chairman of US President's Council of Economic Advisors. They discussed a broad range of economic and financial issues including ways to increase bilateral economic cooperation: Secretary Snow emphasized the importance of high economic growth in India. They also discussed various global macro economic issues including the impact of high oil prices.

(b) to (d) the bilateral discussions basically facilitate exchange of views on issues of bilateral and global importance. In India, the growth outlook appears favourable.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.